

Attorney Docket No.: J7175(C)  
Serial No.: 10/551,823  
Filed: July 10, 2006  
Confirmation No.: 3927

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the ~~thickening mixture comprises a polymeric thickening mixture~~ thickener is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenin, gum tragacanth, xanthan gum, guar gum, alginates, and bentonite ~~and other natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays.~~

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the thickening mixture also comprises a surfactant.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the thickening mixture also comprises a fluoride ion source.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the thickening mixture comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the oral composition.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the slurry comprises an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the slurry further comprises a humectant.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the slurry further comprises a thickening silica.

Claims 10 and 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): Process according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the slurry is prepared by adding calcium carbonate to a water/humectant mixture.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A continuous process for the manufacture of an oral composition, ~~said method characterised by the following steps comprising:~~

- (a) ~~preparation of~~ preparing an aqueous suspension ~~of comprising~~ calcium carbonate, a fluoride ion source and a surfactant;
- (b) ~~optional addition of~~ optionally adding further ingredients to said suspension;
- (c) ~~optional de-aeration~~ optionally de-aerating of said suspension;
- (d) ~~addition of~~ adding a thickening mixture under vacuum to said suspension;
- (e) mixing together ~~of~~ said suspension and thickening mixture;

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- (f) standing allowing the mixed suspension and thickening mixture to stand for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes or for long enough for the thickening mixture to hydrate and become a resultant oral composition;
- (g) mixing the resultant oral composition from step (f) for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes.

Claim 14 (new): Process for the manufacture of an oral composition, the process comprising:

- (a) preparing a slurry comprising:
  - (i) from 5 to 60% of calcium carbonate as abrasive by weight of the composition;
  - (ii) from 0.05 to 3% of a surfactant by weight of the slurry;
  - (iii) a fluoride ion source in an anti-caries effective amount;
- (b) mixing the slurry;
- (c) preparing a thickening mixture, the mixture comprising:
  - (i) from 0.1 to 5% of a thickener by weight of the composition selected from the group consisting of natural gums, synthetic gums, natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays;
- (d) feeding the thickening mixture under vacuum into the slurry to form the oral composition.

Claim 15 (new): Process according to claim 14, wherein feeding of the thickening mixture under vacuum occurs by way of a coaxial injector.